

Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey NEWS

Volume 39, Number 02

February 2014

President's Note

Michael P. Redlich

February 2014

Remembering Norman Wiss

On December 31, 2013, I received an e-mail from Don Wiss that his father, Norm Wiss, had passed away on Christmas Day. This was very sad news indeed as Norm was a very active member of ACGNJ and a good friend to the club. For those of you who may not have had the pleasure of knowing Norm, here's a summary of his accomplishments with ACGNJ.



Norm facilitated the Computerized Investing SIG from November 2003 through August 2007. He also played a significant role in bringing an existing, outside computerized investing group, Best Choice Investment, into ACGNJ when they needed a new "home." This group met during the day (10:30am - 2:30pm) from October 2006 through May 2007 to

(Continued On Page 3)



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ACGNJ Meetings

For the very latest news on ACGNJ meetings, please visit the ACGNJ Website (www.acgnj.org).

Lunics (Linux/UNIX): Monday, February 3, 8 PM
Andreas Meyer (lunics (at) acgnj.org)

Board of Directors Meeting: ~~February 4, 7:00 PM~~
MOVED due to Presidential scheduling conflict:

Board of Directors Meeting: **Friday**, Feb 7, **7** PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Main Meeting: Friday, February 7, **8**:00 PM
Mike Redlich (president (at) acgnj.org)

Layman's Forum: Monday, February 10, 8:00 PM
Matt Skoda (som359 (at) gmail.com)

Java: Tuesday, February 11, 7:30 PM
Mike Redlich (mike (at) redlich.net)

Mobile Devices: Wednesday, February 12, 7:30 PM
Brenda Bell (mobdevsig (at) acgnj.org)

Investing: Thursday, February 13, 8:00 PM
Jim Cooper (jim (at) thecoopers.org).

NJ Gamers: Friday, February 14, **6**:00 PM
Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic (at) gmail.com)

Web Browser: Monday, February 17, 7:30 PM
David McRitchie (firefox (at) acgnj.org)

C/C++: Tuesday, February 18, 7:30 PM
Bruce Arnold (barnold (at) ieee.org)

Window Pains: Friday, February 21, **7**:00 PM
!!!WARNING!!! This meeting will NOT be held in our usual location. Please see the Window Pains announcement on [page 4](#) for further details.
John Raff (john (at) jraff.com)

All meetings, unless otherwise noted, are at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave, Scotch Plains, New Jersey. Directions and map on last page.

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Investing	Jim Cooper		APCUG Rep.	Frank Warren	(908) 756-1681
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Layman's Forum	Matthew Skoda	(908) 359-8842	Financial	Evan Williams	(908) 359-8070
LUNICS	Andreas Meyer		Historian	Lenny Thomas	
Mobile Devices	Brenda Bell		Membership	Bob Hawes	
NJ Gamers	Gregg McCarthy		Newsletter	Bob Hawes	
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Submissions: Articles, reviews, cartoons, illustrations. Most common formats are acceptable. Graphics embedded in the document must also be sent as separate files. E-mail submissions to newsletter@acgnj.org preferred. **Always confirm.** Date review and include name of word processor used, your name, address and phone and name, address and phone of manufacturer, if available.

Tips for reviewers: Why does anyone need it? Why did you like it or hate it? Ease (or difficulty) of installation, learning and use. Would you pay for it?

Advertising: Non-commercial announcements from members are free. Commercial ads 15 cents per word, \$5 minimum. Camera ready display ads: Full page (7 x 10 inches) \$150, two-thirds page (4.5 x 10) \$115, half-page \$85, one-third \$57, quarter \$50, eighth \$30. Discount 10% on 3 or more consecutive insertions. Enclose payment.

Publication Exchange: Other computer user groups are invited to send a subscription to ACGNJ at the address below. We will respond in kind.

Address Changes should be e-mailed to membership@acgnj.org or sent to ACGNJ at the address below.

Membership: Regular (now includes *all* family members who reside at the same address): 1 year \$25, 2 years \$40, 3 years \$55. Student: 1 year \$20. Senior Citizen (over 65): 1 year \$20, 3 years \$45. Send name, address and payment to ACGNJ, PO Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076.

Typographic Note: This ACGNJ News was produced using Scribus 1.3.3.13. Font families used are Times New Roman (TT) for body text, Arial (TT) for headlines.

E-Mail Addresses

Here are the e-mail addresses of ACGNJ Officers, Directors and SIG Leaders (and the Newsletter Editor). This list is also at <http://www.acgnj.org/officers.html>.

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President's Note: Remembering Norman Wiss, continued

conduct live, real-time trading via the Internet. Norm also served on the Board of Directors as a Director in 2006 and 2007. I had the pleasure of working with Norm during his time on the Board of Directors.

Jim Cooper, current Computerized Investing SIG Leader, three other SIG regular attendees, and I attended Norm's Memorial Service on Saturday, January 18, 2014. It was held at the Christ Church in Short Hills, New Jersey. Norm's daughter, Catherine, delivered a wonderful reflection of Norm's life which, of course, included his accomplishments with ACGNJ. She even mentioned how she drove Norm to his very last Computerized Investing SIG meeting two years ago. It was nice for me, personally, to have learned more about Norm's other accomplishments over the years. At the Reception that followed the Memorial Service, everyone had the opportunity to watch a compilation of video clips of Norm's life dated as far back as 1927.

Norm's obituary was published in the Star Ledger on January 12, 2014. It reads:

"Norman Frederick Wiss Jr., 93, died on Dec. 25,

2013, at his home in Short Hills, N.J. Relatives and friends are invited to attend a memorial service at Christ Church in Short Hills on Saturday, Jan. 18, 2014, at 1 p.m., with a reception to follow in the parish hall. Norm was born in Newark, N.J. on Jan. 23, 1920, the son of Norman F. and Mildred S. Wiss. He and his family moved to Short Hills in 1928. He attended the local schools and then graduated from Phillips Academy, Andover, Mass. in 1938 and Yale University with a bachelor of science degree in 1942. Norm enlisted in the United States Army in October 1942, serving in the Signal Corps at Fort Monmouth, N.J., and New Orleans, La. From February 1944 until the end of the World War II, he specialized as a radar repairman of aircraft equipment in the Asiatic-Pacific theatre in Darwin, Australia, and participated in the invasion of Luzon, Philippines; he was discharged in January 1946. Following the war he joined the family firm of J. Wiss and Sons, the manufacturer of shears and scissors founded in 1848 by his great-grandfather, Jacob Wiss, where he served as vice president and

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director. He was also a director of the Employees Association of New Jersey and the president of the Shears and Scissors Manufacturers Association. He was a co-founder of the New Jersey Tool Show, organizing and managing tool-and-die trade shows at the Morristown Armory. He finished his career working for Bell Atlantic. Norm was a member of Christ Church in Short Hills since 1928. He was the first member of Cub Scout Pack 1, with his mother being both a co-founder of the Cub Scouts in the United States, and the first chief den mother of Pack 1. For many years, he enjoyed his summers with his family in Avon, N.J., and Bay Head, N.J. Norm was a member of the Millburn Old Guard, the Yale Alumni Club and the Amateur Computer Group of New Jersey, where he was a co-founder and chair of the Investment SIG (Special Interest Group). Other interests include being a member of the Millburn

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Community Garden, Maplewood Garden Club, and the Watnong Chapter of the National Rock Garden Society. He is survived by his wife of 70 years, Ann Coulter Wiss, and his three children, Catherine J. Wiss and her husband, W. Christian Schumann, of Washington, D.C.; Donald C. Wiss of Brooklyn, N.Y., and N. Frederick Wiss III and his wife, Cathleen Daley of Weston, Mass.; also, he is survived by his three grandchildren, Sarah E. Schumann, Thomas C. Schumann, and Margaret J. Wiss. The family requests that in lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Christ Church in Short Hills, 66 Highland Ave., Short Hills, N.J. 07078."

There is no doubt that Norm lived a full, long, and wonderful life. I'm sure that I speak for everyone at ACGNJ who knew Norm that it was an absolute pleasure to know him and work with him. I know he will be sorely missed. ☐

ACGNJ Announcements

Main Meeting

Friday, February 7, 2014, 8:00 PM to 10:00 PM

Topic: There's An App for That. **Speaker:** Brenda Bell.

(Postponed from January due to inclement weather).

Window Pains Meeting

Friday, February 21, 2014, **7:00 PM to 9:00 PM**.

Topic: Xbox 360, Xbox One and Kinect.

Speaker: The Microsoft Store.

(The talk is about an hour, with about an hour of game play on the systems).

As in January, our February 21 Window Pains Meeting will **NOT** be held in our usual location at the Scotch Plains Rescue Squad. Instead, it will be held at the **Microsoft Store** in the **Bridgewater Commons Mall** (400 Commons Way, Bridgewater, NJ 08807). **Note that the meeting starts *EARLY*, at 7:00 PM, because The Microsoft Store *CLOSES* at 9:00 PM.** Those planning to attend please e-mail Wendy Bell (ariellechaya (at) hotmail.com) with your beverage requests. The Microsoft Store is on the second (middle) level of the Macy's wing of the main mall. Here's a link:

<http://content.microsoftstore.com/detail/Bridgewatercommons>

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Directions to Bridgewater Commons:

From North of Somerville (Morristown, I-80 E or W, I-78 E or W):

Take Route I-287 South.

Take exit 17 on the left to merge onto US-202 S/US-206 S toward US-22 W/Somerville/Flemington.

After 0.7 mi, take the Commons Way exit toward Garretson Rd.

After 0.2 mi, turn left onto Commons Way.

After 0.3 mi: Bridgewater Commons Mall.

From South of Somerville (New Brunswick, Perth Amboy, Trenton):

Take Route I-287 North.

Take exit 14B on the left to merge onto US-22 W toward US-202/US-206/Clinton.

After 2.6 mi, take the US-202 N/US-206 N ramp to I-287 N/Morristown/Netcong.

After 436 ***feet***: Bridgewater Commons Mall.

From East or West of Somerville:

Make your way to Route I-287.

If you are North of Somerville, head South.

If you are South of Somerville, head North.

Follow the appropriate directions above. ☞

ACGNJ Mini-Reports

Main Meeting Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

The Main Meeting on January 3, 2014, was ***canceled*** due to inclement weather. Its topic ("There's An App for That" by Brenda Bell) was re-scheduled for February 7, 2014.

Also scheduled on January 3 (at **7:00 PM**) was our monthly Board of Directors Meeting. It had been re-scheduled from December 31, 2013 (due to the New Year's holiday); and it was re-scheduled ***again***, to January **7**, 2014 at **7:00 PM**. ☞

Java Users Group Report

Mike Redlich, ACGNJ

On **Tuesday, January 14** we held our monthly **Java Users Group** meeting. Our scheduled topic was "**Technical Overview of Utilities, Maven & Github**". This was originally planned for our December 2013 meeting, but was ultimately postponed due to inclement weather.

We had 8 attendees; and the entire meeting was spent reviewing a Git/Github presentation by Yakov Fain, understanding the nomenclature in Git repositories, and setting up a local repository. ☞

Window Pains Report

Wendy Bell, ACGNJ

On Friday, January 17, 2014 we held our Window Pains Meeting at the Microsoft Store at Bridgewater Commons where they spoke about their Surface Tablets (RT and Pro), Makerbot 3D Printer, Haswell Chip and on their Office and Office 365 Software. We had 12 people attend and learned a lot about the aforementioned items. ☞



At the Microsoft Store

ACGNJ Investment Meeting SUMMARY (Jan. 9, 2014)

Philip Lees, ACGNJ

To start off the New Year, we had a great meeting on Thursday, 1/9/2014. We had a couple of new attendees and the stock-chat was quite energetic and fun. We had 15 attendees in total. There were loads of questions and interactive discussions, all "on topic", which makes for very interesting meetings.

Jim Cooper started with what evolved into a "from the floor" segment with lots of questions, lots of ideas and lots of suggestions on technical exits, in trying to maximize profits and minimize "give-backs" on profitable trades. This was highly interactive, energetic and a lot of fun.

Then we went into the "social" time, with pizza, soda and a variety of trading-related discussions.

Larry Yu did an excellent options segment on

Calendar Spreads, which are also referred to as "Time Spreads", or even "Horizontal Spreads". This was an excellent continuation of the presentation that Jim did last month on "Vertical" spreads (defined risk etc.). Larry explained fully what they are, how to select potential candidates and how to place the trades. He also stated very clearly that he enjoys these types of trades as he does not have to monitor them through the market gyrations each and every day, he simply closes or rolls them prior to expiration. Fantastic! 😊

Once again, please attend the meetings, everybody learns from them. We hope to see you at February's meeting, **2/13/2014**. Thank you.

Philip Lees 🖨

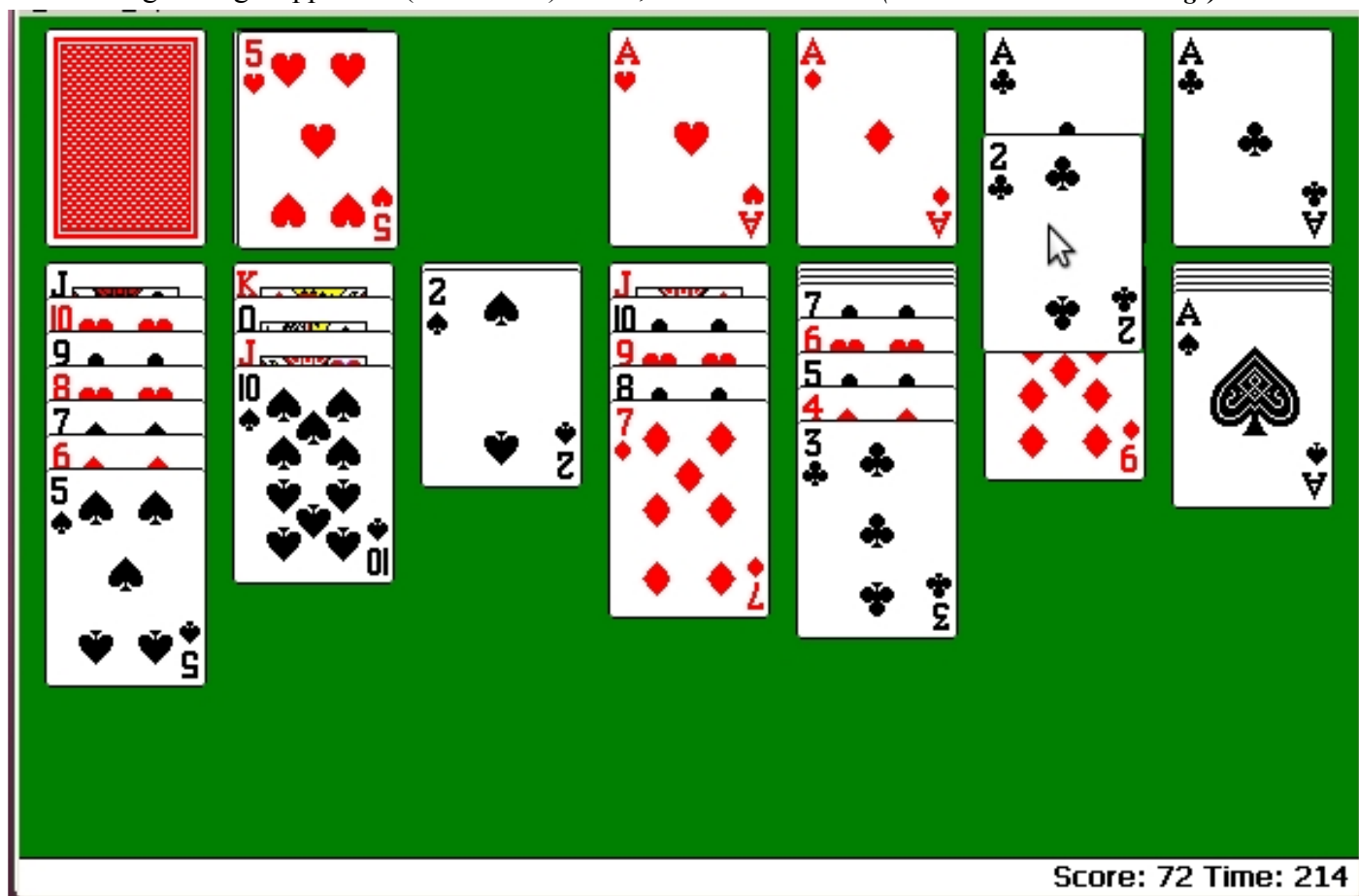
Five Aces

Bob Hawes, ACGNJ

Once upon a time, many years ago (when I still ran Windows), I was fooling around on my computer, and a strange thing happened. (See below). Now, I

like to play Solitaire against the clock. Therefore, I make my moves as *fast* as I can, and I keep close

(Text Continued On Next Page)



track of the colors of the cards; but I don't pay that much attention to their suits. So it shouldn't really be **too** surprising that I was aware that I'd turned up four aces, and I was aware that I'd double-clicked them up into their usual places at the top of the playing field; but I **wasn't** aware that the two black aces had **both** been the ace of clubs. Until, that is, I turned up an ace of spades in the rightmost column.

You can tell from the low number in the Score counter and the **high** number in the Time counter that I just stared at my screen in awe and wonder for quite a long while. Finally, I decided to take a screen shot of this no-doubt once-in-a-lifetime event, to preserve it for history; but first, I used my mouse to move that two of clubs down enough to show that there **was**, indeed, another ace of clubs underneath it. After that, I tried to play the game out to the end. However, I eventually ran out of moves and had to quit. (That's one thing I miss about OS2. **Its** version of Solitaire had a "cheat" function. So I could **always** finish a game there if I wanted, no matter what the cards said). Did I have a 53 card deck for this

particular game? Or did I have 52 cards as usual, and one of the other cards was missing? Or is it possible that I had a complete set of **13** extra clubs? It annoys me that I'll **never** know the answer.

Anyway, I purposely named this article *Five Aces* **because** that title suggests dishonesty. I'm fully aware that I **could** have used a graphics editor to turn an ordinary screen shot into Figure A; and I **can't** prove otherwise. You'll just have to trust me, and take my word that I **didn't**. As a matter of fact, I'm even having a hard time proving exactly how long ago this incident actually happened. The image file I used for Figure A is named FiveAces.jpg, and it's dated October 3rd, 2013 at 05:08:50 AM. That's when I converted it, to comply with this newsletter's new "JPG images **only**" policy. Its predecessor image is named FiveAces.png, and it's dated March 10th, 2011 at 05:53:24 AM.

However, I made the move to Linux in 2009. So that file, having been produced while I was still working under Windows, should be dated as 2009 or **earlier**. I can think of only two possible reasons for it to be

(Continued Above Right)

dated as March of 2011. Between November of 2010 and August of 2011, I copied a **lot** of data files from smaller hard disks to larger replacement hard disks. During a mass copy operation, one or more original file dates **can** get "lost" during transmission. If this happens, and the operating system **can't** find the real date for a file, it does the same thing that it normally does for an Internet download: it uses the **current** date and time. (This is one of several different phenomena that I collectively lump together under the term "Time Bugs". **Nobody** but me seems to care that things like this can and do happen). I use a file comparison program to insure that I don't get any "bad" copies, but that program **doesn't** compare the file dates.

So, if that file was in a group of files that I copied from one hard disk to another just before 6 AM on March 10th, 2011, its date might have gotten changed that way; and there might be another copy of FiveAces.png on some other hard disk somewhere, identical in every way except that it's carrying an earlier file date. Alternatively (and more likely),

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there might have been another FiveAces file, saved in some other format (such as the BMP format used by Windows Paint), and I converted it into the PNG format on March 10th, 2011 at 05:53:24 AM. If so, there might still be a file named FiveAces.bmp out there somewhere. Unfortunately, an extensive search failed to turn up **either** of these two possibilities.

Of course, I'm disappointed that I can't tell you exactly when this momentous event took place; but at the same time, I'm lucky that I can tell you about it at all. Despite what its date says, I maintain that I made this image **at least** four years ago, and possibly quite a bit earlier. Then I lost track of it, and more or less forgot about it. Fortunately, I ran across it in late September of 2013. and now I've finally written an article to go with it. Enjoy!

We'll close by recalling an age of upper class excesses: England in the eighteen hundreds. At that time, the very rich could get away with almost anything. Theft, rape, or even murder. (As long as the victim **wasn't** a fellow member of "Society", of course); but even then, there was one offense that

Five Aces, *continued*

was simply **NOT** tolerated.

Once upon a time, I caught Microsoft *cheating at cards!*

Appendix I: Another thing I'll never know

To re-use a classic line yet again: Once upon a time, I had a "baby sister". Well, she *was* a baby when we got her in 1959, but she was a *very* old lady when she died in 1975. Of course, I'm referring to Terry, our family dog. (And yes, that *is* the way we spelled her name). Some people just can't understand this, but she was *definitely* a beloved member of our family, and I still miss her.

This memory probably dates from the mid sixties. It must have taken place in the spring or summer, because we'd taken our rugs up and sent them out for cleaning. It was daytime, and I was slouched in a chair in a corner of the living room, relaxing. Suddenly, I heard a tapping sound coming towards me. It was the rhythmic click-click-click of Terry's claws striking against the bare hardwood floor. As she pranced into the room, her whole body just glowed with excitement and anticipation; and there

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see *me*, so I said; "Hello, Terry". She jumped back in surprise, and I realized that she hadn't known I was there. She looked startled, disappointed and *guilty*. I realized that she'd had something planned, and I'd *ruined* it. As I petted her, I felt sorry for spoiling her fun. I also felt angry with myself for not just sitting there quietly and keeping my big mouth shut, so I could have seen what she was up to. Because I couldn't figure out what she could have been so excited about.

There was no food or doggy toys in that room. Also,



**A Holiday Image From Long Ago:
My Mom and Terry on December 25, 1961.**

was what I can only describe as a big wide grin on her face.

Being a clueless egotist, I thought she was happy to

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because we'd cleaned the place thoroughly when we took up the rugs, there were *no* fascinating pieces of rubbish lying about in any forgotten nooks or crannies, just begging to be investigated. Although I wracked my brains out for quite some time, I couldn't think of anything in that end of the house that could have caused all that excitement, and it irked me that I'd never know what it was.

Isn't it strange what wacky things you can wind up remembering for the rest of your life?

See you next month. ☐

Goodbye XP

Dick Maybach, Member, Brookdale Computer Users' Group, NJ
Newsletter: BUG Bytes (www.bcug.com) n2nd (at) att.net

On April 8, 2014 Microsoft will stop supporting Windows XP and Office 2003. After that date there will be no new security updates, non-security hot-fixes, free or paid assisted support options, or on-line technical content updates. However, all your software will continue to work just as well as it did on April 7, so you needn't panic, but it would be

prudent to come up with a rational transition plan. There are three choices: (1) continue to use XP, but take some precautions, (2) keep your present hardware, but upgrade the software, and (3) purchase new hardware and software. The hardware and software vendors as well as the media in which they advertise prefer that you take the third approach, but

let's consider all of them.

There are many advantages to staying with XP, which may not hold with the other two approaches.

1. Your present hardware works with it.
2. Your present applications run under it.
3. It supports your present peripherals.
4. You don't have to learn anything new.
5. It costs less than the alternatives.

The main disadvantage is that as time goes on, you become increasingly more vulnerable to attack over the Internet and by malware. You can reduce this and its consequences by the following.

1. Before April 8, 2014, use Microsoft Update to install the latest patches to all your Microsoft software.
2. Update all your anti-malware software, and check that the vendor will continue to support it for XP after April 8. If not, change to a vendor that will.
3. If you are connected to the Internet through a router, install the latest firmware in it. If your PC connects directly to your ISP's modem, purchase a

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time goes on, and the bad guys find more XP vulnerabilities, your risk will increase. Be wary of any download, including e-mail attachments from friends. The best malware defense is to keep it off your PC. Your last defense is your backup program. Any information you haven't backed up on an external drive is one mouse click or one device failure away from trash. Although its most important to back up your data, you should in addition make an image backup of everything on your hard disk, because once XP becomes an orphan, applications and drivers for it will become increasingly difficult to find.

The second alternative is to keep your hardware, but change your operating system.

1. Your vulnerability will be less than if you stay with XP.
2. If your PC is old, it may not support some current operating systems.
3. Your present applications may not run under the new OS.
4. Drivers may not be available for some of your

hardware router, and update its firmware if necessary. For good measure, if you haven't already, install a software XP firewall.

4. Be very careful about what you download, and avoid doing it if possible.
5. Review you backup program; improve it if needed, and resolve to follow it rigorously.

The wording on the MS Website implies that old patches will remain available, but why take a chance? Update your software early, as the download rate may slow near the deadline. At the present time, about 35 per cent of the computers in the world use XP. This is a sizable market for anti-malware vendors, and I would expect them to continue supporting XP for some time. Your first line of defense against Internet aggression is your router and its firewall. Most likely, your ISP's modem also includes a firewall, but how careful is he about keeping it up-to-date? You don't know. With your own router, you have ability to keep it up to date, and as a result, having one is desirable even if you have only one PC. Despite all your precautions, as

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peripherals, requiring you to replace the devices.

5. You will have to take care during the transition not to lose any data.
6. You will have to learn new ways of working.

The hazard with this approach is that to install a new operating system, you generally must format your hard disk, but you must first insure that all your data is safe and readable by the applications in your new OS. For example, if all your financial records are stored in Quicken files and there is no financial program available in your new operating system that can understand them, you essentially have lost all your financial records. A second problem is to insure that your current hardware supports the new operating system before you format your disk. If you are considering a newer version of Windows, run the Windows 7 Upgrade Advisor, available at:

<http://windows.microsoft.com/is-is/windows/downloads/upgrade-advisor>

Don't forget to check your peripherals; I found that there was no Windows 7 driver for my scanner and had to buy a new one when I upgraded from XP. If

your PC is compatible except for insufficient RAM, this is an inexpensive upgrade, even if done by a shop. (You should have at least one Gigabyte of RAM, even if you stay with XP.)

Consider Linux, especially for a secondary PC. I've converted two XP machines to Xubuntu:

(<http://xubuntu.org/>), which is more responsive than XP on old hardware. It has the advantage that you can try it out with a "live-CD," which is bootable from a CD drive. It will be slow in this mode, but since it doesn't make any changes to the hard disk, you are just a reboot away from XP. While running Xubuntu, all the files on your hard disk are available, so you can check whether Linux applications can read them. (Instructions on how to create a live CD or DVD in Windows are available at:

<http://www.ubuntu.com/download/help/try-ubuntu-before-you-install>.) If you have room on your disk or can add a second one, consider a dual-boot system in which you can run either system. (All your Windows files will be accessible in Linux, and Windows applications are available that can read Linux disk

partitions.) However, Linux is not Windows, which means there are many differences between the two systems. Try to find a sympathetic, experienced Linux user to help you get started, especially if you are less than comfortable in adventure mode.

The third alternative, buying new hardware and software is the easy and safe, but expensive. You are probably best off to purchase new components. XP-era processors, RAM, displays, and hard disks are woefully inadequate for any current OS. Keyboards and mice now cost just a few dollars, and your old ones may use obsolete connectors. You can keep your printer and scanner if drivers are available for the new OS; your old speakers will be fine.

1. Your old PC with your data, applications, and peripherals remains available for use.
2. You will probably have to purchase new applications for your new OS and probably some new peripherals, especially if the existing ones are several years old.
3. There will be a learning curve for the new system. Spend some extra money; in particular, get more

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RAM and a larger disk than you think you can get by with.

I haven't considered a piecemeal hardware upgrade, because I don't think it's cost-effective. Most modern CPUs are incompatible with XP-era motherboards; new motherboards are usually incompatible with XP-era cases and expansion cards; and old RAM is incompatible with both modern CPUs and motherboards. My preference is to get a new PC up

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and running with all the essential software installed, and keep the old PC operating until you are comfortable with the new one and are sure that it has all the applications you need and that all your data has been successfully transferred to it.

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I/O, I/O, It's Off To Work We Go

Phil Sorrentino, Past President, Sarasota PCUG, Florida

Newsletter: PC Monitor (www.spcug.org) philsorr (at) yahoo.com

The work I'm talking about here is computer data transfer. I/O or Input/Output is a term used to collect all the ways you can move data into and/or out of a computer. (This may be a review for some, but there are a few new ideas that might make it worth the time.) For all of those that have been with computers from the beginning, circa 1980, the only way into or out of your computer, then, was through the serial and parallel ports (the keyboard, mouse, and display

interfaces were really internal and were only used for their intended purposes). Fortunately, the serial and parallel interfaces have been replaced with interfaces that are much faster and much more flexible and easier to use. Today, most of the I/O is conducted over the Universal Serial Bus (USB) interface. However, there are a few special purpose interfaces that have become basic to computer use.

Early on, audio was included in the computers bag

of tricks so we now typically have an audio-in for a microphone and an audio-out for speakers. Many computers also have another audio-in, usually tagged as line-in. Audio-out is typically used to drive external speakers and line-in is typically used to input a stereo analog signal for use by audio processing software. Also added early on was an Ethernet connection which has become the computers on-ramp to the Internet. Yes, and Wi-Fi (*Wireless-Fidelity*) has certainly become the mechanism for all, laptops, netbooks, tablets, and smartphones to get on to the Internet. Wi-Fi is a wireless I/O and therefore needs no connectors or wires. It is all accomplished by the transmitter and receiver hardware and software, within the computer. There are two other wireless interfaces, Bluetooth and NFC. Bluetooth is becoming very popular as a way to easily connect various Bluetooth compatible devices to the computer with no wires cluttering up the computer area. Bluetooth sets up a PAN (Personal Area Network) around the computer, usually within 10 meters. Bluetooth is also finding

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port. The HDMI port carries both digital video and digital audio signals from the computer to a digital display device. (HDMI is also used in most new digital entertainment centers and digital televisions. Many new digital TVs even provide multiple HDMI input ports, so you can connect cable boxes and DVD players to the TV.) HDMI is also being used on small devices such as smartphones and camcorders and as such is being made available in mini and micro sizes.

So besides audio and video, most of the digital data that is transferred to and from the computer is done via the USB ports. Modern computers usually have multiple USB connectors (laptops maybe 2 to 4, and desktops may have 2 to many). The USB port is a rectangular plug that is keyed so you cannot plug the connector in incorrectly. The USB connector also provides a limited amount of power to the device connected to it, which can be used to charge a battery or even power the device. Because the USB connector provides power to the connecting device, many smartphones and media players charge their batteries through the USB connector. Currently USB

its way into many places like the living room entertainment center and the automobile. NFC (Near Field Communications) is a very short range (less than 4 inches) wireless interface that may or may not be used on a computer but will probably be used with smartphones to help make the electronic wallet possible in the future.

Not so early on, around the time laptops became portable, rather than luggable, a video display output port started to appear. This became the very popular VGA (Video Graphics Array) output port (a.k.a. the RGB port because it provided Red, Green, and Blue analog video signals). The VGA port was typically used with an external display device like a larger display or a projector. For a brief time, the DVI (Digital Video Interface) began to take over the job of moving digital video information from the computer to an external display device, but it was soon overtaken by a more comprehensive and versatile interface. Today, the VGA and the DVI port, is being replaced by a digital multi-media port, the HDMI (High-Definition Multimedia Interface)

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is at version 3.0. (Early versions were 1.0 which was little used, 1.1 which was very popular but slow at only 12 Mbps, and 2.0 which was ubiquitous, and fast at up to 480 Mbps.) USB 3.0 devices began to appear in January 2010. USB 3.0 has a maximum data rate of 5 Gbps, yes that's 5 thousand Mega bits per second. That is a maximum and most data transfers will probably not be near 5 Gbps, but they will be very fast. Fortunately, USB 3.0 is backward compatible with both 1.1 and 2.0. Backward compatibility means that devices at any USB version can operate together, although the data transfer will only be at the speed of the lowest USB version. USB 3.0 connectors usually have a blue center post to identify them as 3.0. Because USB is used on so many small devices, like smartphones and tablets, USB connectors come in Mini and Micro sizes. USB has become so fast and ubiquitous that it has just about eclipsed the other, almost popular, serial bus, IEEE1394 (a.k.a. FireWire).

There are a few other interfaces that may show up on a higher-end computer. These tend to be for special purposes or are extremely fast. One interface,

for the purpose of connecting external hard drives, is eSATA (external Serial Advanced Technology Attachment). This interface is not as popular as it was before USB 3.0 became available, but it is still a way to extend the computer's hard drive capability. Thunderbolt is another special purpose interface, rarely seen on typical computers, with speeds up to 10 Gbps. Thunderbolt can connect multiple compatible devices in a daisy chained configuration. DisplayPort is another special purpose Video Display interface that is very fast, it is advertised at up to 21.6 Gbps, and is designed for multiple displays. These very fast interfaces may be found on professional Display systems that require resolution and refresh rates far beyond those of HDMI. This

type of display may be found in medical systems that may be used to display MRI Scans or X-Rays. DisplayPort may be found on some high-end machines, maybe gaming machines and if resolutions beyond 1080p ever find their way to the home, you may find DisplayPort driving those display devices.

The job of moving digital data around is tough work, but these interfaces seem to be up to the job, and I'm sure the ones that will come in the future will probably be faster, more versatile and even more capable.

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Linux Magazines

Cal Esneault, Cajun Clickers Computer Club, LA

(Former President and leader of many Open Source Workshops & SIGS)

Newsletter: Cajun Clickers Computer News (www.clickers.org) ccnewsletter (at) cox.net



Since Linux is not as commonly used as some other computer operating systems, users frequently resort to online sources for instructional information. Although easy to find, typical research often ends with information having a question and answer format focusing on isolated issues. A magazine format can give a broader view without being long or technically complicated. Two suggestions for free, online magazines for users are PCLinuxOS Magazine and Full Circle Magazine.

PCLinuxOS is a PC operating system with a KDE 4 desktop environment that was started by Bill Reynolds ("Texstar") in Houston, TX. It has an open-source "community" operation that publishes its own magazine. There is a lot of emphasis for new users transitioning from other operating systems. Many technical articles stick to a moderate length, and there is a lot of "fun" content (such as food recipes, screen shots of customized desktops, reader feedback, etc.).

Below are a few of the article topics covered in the last three issues of the PCLinuxOS magazine:

Xfce User Tips and Tweaks (Parts 1,2, & 3)

Password Security Revisited

OpenVPN: Other VPN Services

LibreOffice Tips & Tricks (Parts 1,2, & 3)

Inkscape: Holiday Tree; Torn Paper Effect

Undo Gmail's Latest "Enhancements"

Backup Your Gmail Account With getmail

GIMP Tutorial: Masks Explained

Game Zone: Sacred Citadel

Linux vs. Windows

Testimonials from veteran PCLinuxOS users

Gramps genealogy program

Screenshot Showcase

Full Circle Magazine covers Ubuntu and its derivatives (Xubuntu, Lubuntu, Edubuntu, etc.), but it is not associated with Canonical Ltd, the commercial sponsors of Ubuntu. It has many recurring feature topics (news, ask the new guy, software reviews, command line skills, etc.) and usually has more than 50 pages of content. For the most part, it relies on volunteer writers. There is also an associated podcast available. Note: the title Full Circle is in reference to the Ubuntu logo.

This magazine also carries well detailed multi-part articles about a few of the more popular software titles. Examples include LibreOffice, Inkscape, Blender, Python, and GIMP. There are sometimes special editions of concentrated compilations of these articles.

Examples of special issues are three special issues

for LibreOffice, two special issues for Inkscape, and 6 special issues for Python (see the September 2013 main magazine issue for details). Since most of the software with multi-article coverage is cross-platform and can run on most operating systems (Linux, Mac OS, Windows OS), these articles should be of interest to almost any computer user.

Both magazines are published monthly. PCLinuxOS Magazine started in September of 2006 and is now at issue 80. Full Circle Magazine started in May of 2007 and is now at issue 77. Both can keep you up to date on news, software, and hardware related to Linux. In addition, you can get any of the past issues

in PDF format from their archives without cost. These archives provide a huge resource of detailed information written in a style friendly to the average user.

These magazines are excellent examples of the way the open-source community works to share the knowledge about free computer software. Even if you do not currently use a Linux OS, browsing these magazines will give you a quick view of what open source software is all about.

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Get Plain Text

Linda Gonse, Editor & Webmaster, Orange County PC Users' Group, CA
Newsletter: Nibbles & Bits (www.orcopug.org) editor (at) orcopug.org

It's probably safe to say that everyone has copied text from a webpage at some time and pasted it into an email or into a Word-like program. So, of course, you can relate to my dismay of pasting the type complete with its formatting riding piggyback on it.

I always have to stop what I'm doing and unformat and reformat the type, so it blends in with what I'm working on.

I can hear "old timers" yelling, "Notepad! Use Notepad!"

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That's true. And, it's a good option. I'm using Windows XP (still), so I have a shortcut to Notepad on my Start menu. It's very easy to click on Start while I have my browser open and click to open Notepad to paste the web text, then recopy it from Notepad, and repaste the text into a document.

But, I found a simpler method.

Really. There is no learning curve.

I only have to click once after copying from a webpage and then I can immediately paste unformatted text into anything anywhere!

With our typical complicated programs to work with, this just doesn't seem possible. Or, maybe alchemy might be involved!

The short of it is that this is true, no hocus pocus. It is possible with a tiny program called Get Plain Text.

It's only 70Kb and it doesn't add an icon to your system tray or grab any memory when you use it.

It works in less than a second to remove text formatting, including fonts, sizes, colors, and embedded images. It just leaves plain text.

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Download the program from the developer's webpage (clipdiary.com) at <http://bit.ly/1bzFuea> or a secondary download site at <http://www.softpedia.com/get/PORTABLE-SOFTWARE/Office/Clipboard/Portable-Get-Plain-Text.shtml>. Save it to your preferred disk location. Click on the program to run it.

Add the icon that launches Get Plain Text to your Quick Launch bar or favorite program launcher.

I keep it on my Quick Launch bar. As soon as I copy something to the clipboard, I click on the Get Plain Text icon. Then, I paste the text anywhere I desire. That's it.

When I use Get Plain Text, no window opens. There are no dialog boxes or preferences to select. There are no flags, bells, or whistles to tell me it is finished. It simply works fast, silently, and unobtrusively.

What else? Oh, yeah. It's free!

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SIG News

LUNICS (Linux/Unix)

Andreas Meyer (lunics@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/lunics.html>

LUNICS is a group for those who share an interest in Unix and similar operating systems. While we do quite a bit with Linux, we've also been known to discuss Solaris and BSD as well. Recent meetings have followed a Random Access format. See our web page for further information. (We meet on the first Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Main Meeting

Evan Williams (president@acgnj.org)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/mainmeet.html>

We meet on the first Friday of the month, at 8:00 PM. Each December, this meeting includes our Annual Business Meeting and Officer Elections. *No* meetings in July or August. ☐

Layman's Forum

Matt Skoda (som359@gmail.com)
<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/laymans.html>

This SIG discusses issues of interest to novice users or those planning to get started in computing. Watch our Web page for updates and announcements. We meet at the same time as the Hardware Workshop. (On the second Monday of the month, at 8:00 PM). *No* meetings in July and August. ☐

Hardware Workshop

Mike Reagan (hardware@acgnj.org)

This group is dedicated to repairing, refurbishing and/or recycling older computers. Ten people attended the first meeting, so there is still a market for this type of event. Although we looked at some of the older equipment stored in the back room, most of our time was spent in talking about past experiences and planning for the future. Hopefully, we can establish a viable long-term schedule of projects, and keep the interest of those who attended this inaugural meeting. If you have a hardware problem, bring it in and we can all help fix or demolish it. (No guarantees either way.) We meet at the same time as the Layman's Forum. (On the second Monday of each month, at 8:00 PM). ☐

Java

Mike Redlich (mike@redlich.net)
<http://www.redlich.net/javasig/javasig.html>

This SIG covers beginner, intermediate, and advanced level Java programming. Primary focus is on developing useful/practical applets and applications. (We meet on the second Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☐

Mobile Devices

Brenda Bell (mobdevsig@acgnj.org)

The Mobile Devices SIG focuses largely on current-generation cellphones and smart phones (such as Blackberry, Android, iPhone) which bridge the gap between basic cell phones and traditional computers, and how they can help you manage and organize your life. Our membership ranges from those who have recently acquired their first, basic cellphone to those who develop applications for today's modern smart phones, iPods, and ultra-portable computers. While we expect to spend much of our time investigating the built-in features and specialized applications available to modern smart phones, if you bring your basic (or multimedia) cell phone, iPod, or other mobile device with questions on how to use it, where to find applications, or what features they have, we are always happy to help! Meet and greet and plan where this event goes. Bring all your ideas, PDAs, fancy phones, etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the even ones), at 7:30PM). ☐

WebDev

Evan Williams (webdev@acgnj.org)

This SIG is an open forum for all Website Development techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All languages will be considered and examined. The current project is a CMS for the club. Anyone interested in starting a new project, come to the meeting and announce/explain. Provide as much detail as possible. WebDev should be an all-encompassing development and examination forum for all issues, applications, OS, languages and systems one can use to build Websites. We currently

have two web development language SIGs: .NET and Java; but other languages and OS need to be investigated, examined and tested; Windows, Linux, UNIX, DEC, Vax, HP etc. Intel-PC, Motorola - MAC etc. (We meet on the second Wednesday of alternate months (we get the odd ones), at 7:30 PM). ☞

Investment Software

Jim Cooper (jim@thecoopers.org)

http://www.acgnj.org/groups/sig_investment.html

The Investment SIG continues with presentations on how to use analysis programs TC2000 and TCNet. Large charts are presented on our pull down screen and illustrate the application of computer scans and formulas to find stocks for profitable investments. Technical analysis determines buy points, sell points and projected moves. Technical analysis can also be used on fundamentals such as earnings, sales growth, etc. We're no longer focusing on just Telechart. If you are using (or interested in) Tradestation, eSignal, VectorVest, or just in learning how to select and use charting and technical analysis, come join us!! (We meet on the second Thursday of the month, at 8 PM). ☞

NJ Gamers

Gregg McCarthy (greggmajestic@gmail.com)

<http://www.NJGamers.com>

www.lanparty.com

The Friday Night Frag starts at 6:00 PM on the second Friday of each month, and keeps going until 12 Noon on Saturday - 18 hours for 5 bucks!

BYOC - Bring your own computer.

BYOF - Bring your own food.

And if you don't like sitting on metal folding chairs...

BYO chair! ☞

Web Browser (Formerly Firefox)

David McRitchie (firefox@acgnj.org).

This SIG is an open forum for all Firefox and Mozilla techniques and technologies, to encourage study and development of web sites of all kinds. All browsers will be considered and examined. All members and guests are invited to check out the design concepts and voice their opinion. (We meet on the third Monday of each month, at 7:30 PM). ☞

C/C++ Programming

Bruce Arnold (barnold@ieee.org)

<http://acgnj.barnold.us/index.html>

This is a forum for discussion of programming in general, beginning and intermediate level C, C++, C-Win programming, hardware, algorithms, and operating systems. We demonstrate real programming in a non-intimidating way, presenting complete code for working programs in 3-5 sheets of paper. (We meet on the third Tuesday of each month, at 7:30 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

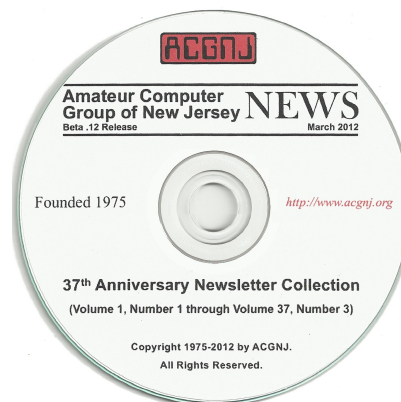
Window Pains

John Raff (jraff@comcast.net)

<http://www.acgnj.org/groups/winpains.html>

Intended to provide members with Windows oriented discussions, Microsoft and Linux style. Directed to more technological level of attendee, but newbies are welcomed. (We meet on the third Friday of the month at 8:00 PM). **No** meetings in July or August. ☞

37th Anniversary Newsletter CD Now On Sale



Beta .12 Release.

\$8.00, including postage.

(\$7.00 if you pick up a copy at a meeting).

Get yours today!

Back Issues Still Needed

Our collection remains incomplete. Below is a list of missing newsletters. Anyone who lends us one of these (or supplies a good clear copy) will receive the next CD as our thanks.

1975: #2 and #3 (dates uncertain).

1976: January.

1984: August.

1985: June, July, August, September. ☞

Guru Corner

If you need help with any of the technologies listed below, you can call on the person listed. Please be considerate and call before 10 PM.

Software

HTML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
ColdFusion	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
CSS	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
	Jo-Anne Head	908-769-7385
Java	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
C++	Bruce Arnold	908-735-7898
	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
ASP	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Perl	John Raff	973-560-9070
	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
XML	Mike Redlich	908-246-0410
Genealogy	Frank Warren	908-756-1681
Home Automation	Frank Warren	908-756-1681

Operating Systems

Windows 3.1	Ted Martin	732-636-1942
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ACGNJ T-Shirts For Sale



(Front)



(Back)

L, XL: \$15.00

M: 2 for \$15.00

bob.hawes (at) acgnj.org

ACGNJ MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Sign up online at www.acgnj.org/membershipApplication.html and pay dues with PayPal.

US/CANADA		Dues	STUDENT	SENIOR CITIZEN (Over 65)
1 Year	\$25		\$20	\$20
2 Years	\$40			
3 Years	\$55			\$45

Mail this application and your check to:
AMATEUR COMPUTER GROUP OF NEW JERSEY, INC., P.O. BOX 135, SCOTCH PLAINS, NJ 07076

☐ New Member ☐ Renewal ☐ Address Change

First Name _____ Last Name _____ Phone _____

Mailing Address _____ E-Mail _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ URL _____

What topics would you like to see covered at club meetings? _____

Other Local Computer Groups		
Princeton Macintosh User Group: 7:15 pm 2nd Tuesday, Jadwin Hall, A-10, Washington Rd, Princeton, (609) 252-1163, www.pmug-nj.org	Linux Users Group in Princeton: 7 pm, 2nd Wednesday, Lawrence Branch Mercer Library, Rt#1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrence NJ http://www.lugip.org	New York PC: 3rd Thurs, 7 pm, PS 41, 116 W 11th St. For info call hotline, (212) 533-NYPC, http://www.nypc.org
Computer Education Society of Philadelphia: Meetings & Workshops at Jem Electronics, 6622 Castor Ave, Philadelphia PA. www.cesop.org/	Brookdale Computer Users Group: 7 pm, 3rd Friday, Brookdale Community College, Bldg MAS Rm 100, Lincroft NJ. (732)-739-9633. www.bcug.com	NJ Macintosh User Group: 8 pm, 3rd Tuesday, Allwood Branch Library, Lyall Rd, Clifton NJ. (201) 893-5274 http://www.njmug.org
PC User Group of So. Jersey: 2nd Mon., 7 pm, Trinity Presb. Church, 499 Rt 70 E, Cherry Hill, NJ. L. Horn, (856) 983-5360	Hunterdon Computer Club: 8:30 am, 3rd Sat, Hunterdon Medical Center, Rt 31, Flemington NJ. www.hunterdoncomputerclub.org , (908) 995-4042.	NY Amateur Computer Group: 2nd Thurs, 7 pm, Rm 806 Silver Bldg, NYU, 32 Waverly Pl, NYC. http://www.nyacc.org
Morris Micro Computer Club: 7 pm 2nd Thurs., Morris County Library, Hanover Ave, Morristown NJ, (973) 267-0871. http://www.morrismicro.com	Central Jersey Computer Club: 8 pm, 4th Friday, Rm 74, Armstrong Hall, College of NJ. Rich Williams, (609) 466-0909.	NJ PC User Group: 2nd Thurs, Monroe Rm at Wyckoff Public Library, 7 pm. Maureen Shannon, (201) 853-7432, www.njpcug.org
Philadelphia Area Computer Society: 3rd Sat, 12 noon Main Meeting, groups 8 am-3 pm. Upper Moreland Middle School, Hatboro PA. (215) 764-6338. www.pacsnet.org	NJ Computer Club: 6:15 pm, 2nd Wednesday except Jul & Aug, North Branch Reformed Church, 203 Rt 28, Bridgewater NJ. http://www.njcc.org	Princeton PC Users Group: 2nd Monday, Lawrenceville Library, Alt Rt 1 & Darrah Lane, Lawrenceville, Paul Kurivchack (908) 218-0778, http://www.ppcug-nj.org

Classified

FREE TO MEMBERS. Use our classified ads to sell off your surplus computer stuff. Send copy to Classified, ACGNJ NEWS, P.O. Box 135, Scotch Plains NJ 07076 or e-mail to the editor, bdegroot@ptd.net. Classified ads are free to members, one per issue. Non-members pay \$10. Send check payable to ACGNJ Inc. with copy. Reasonable length, please.



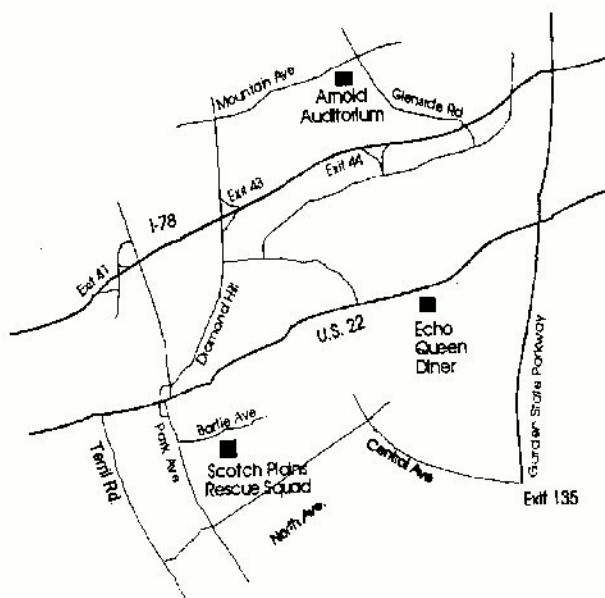
Radio and TV Programs

Computer Radio Show, WBAI 99.5 FM, NY, Wed. 8-9 p.m.

Software Review, The Learning Channel, Saturday 10-10:30 p.m.

On Computers, WCTC 1450 AM, New Brunswick, Sunday 1-4 p.m. To ask questions call (800) 677-0874.

PC Talk, Sunday from 8 p.m. to 10 p.m., 1210 AM Philadelphia. 1-800-876-WPEN



Directions to Meetings at Scotch Plains Rescue Squad, 1916 Bartle Ave., Scotch Plains NJ

From New York City or Northern New Jersey

Take Route 1&9 or the Garden State Parkway to US 22 Westbound.

From Southern New Jersey

Take Parkway north to Exit 135 (Clark). Stay on left of ramp, follow circle under Parkway. Bear right to Central Avenue; follow to Westfield and under RR overpass. Left at light to North Avenue; follow to light in Fanwood. Right on Martine (which becomes Park Ave). Right on Bartle Ave in middle of shopping district. Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is located on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed.

From I-78 (either direction)

Take exit 41 (Scotch Plains); follow signs to US 22. Turn right at light at bottom of hill and use overpass to cross Rt. 22. Follow US 22 Westbound directions.

From US 22 Westbound

Exit at Park Avenue, Scotch Plains after McDonalds on the right, diagonally opposite Scotchwood Diner on the left, immediately before the overpass. After exiting, turn left at the light and use overpass to cross US 22. Bear right at bottom of ramp to continue south on Park Avenue. Turn left at the second light (a staggered intersection). Scotch Plains Rescue Squad (2-story brick) is on the right. Do not park in the row next to the building — you'll be towed. We meet on the second floor, entering by the door at the right front of the building.

From Western New Jersey

Take US 22 Eastbound to the Park Avenue exit. The exit is about a mile past Terrill Road and immediately past the overpass. Exit onto Park Avenue South and follow the directions above to the Rescue Squad building. ☐